

### REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.116, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 5, 23 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Presumably, claim 25 is also allowable since it depends upon claim 24.

Claim 5 has been canceled and the subject matter thereof incorporated into claim 1. Claim 23 has been amended to depend from claim 1 in view of the cancellation of claim 5. Claims 1-3, 6, 8-12 and 21-26 remain pending in this application .

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9, 21, 22 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0160289 to Teshima et al. Claims 10-12 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Teshima et al '289. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of now canceled claim 5. Claim 23 has been amended to now depend from claim 1. All remaining claims are directly or indirectly dependent upon claim.

For at least these reasons, the §102(b) and §103(a) rejections based on Teshima et al '289 have been obviated. Such action is earnestly solicited.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any

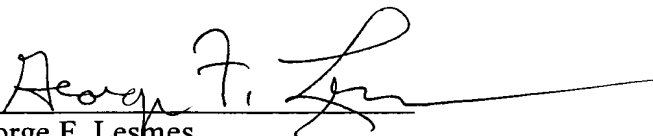
questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 838-6683 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

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